

cops to fight crime and terrorism in the 9th Congressional District and the City of Houston.

The C.O.P.S. hiring program was created in 1994 to put more police officers on America's streets, and has been one of the most successful law enforcement programs in our Nation's history. Nationally, C.O.P.S. has provided \$9 billion to hire 117,000 police officers. According to a GAO study, between 1998 and 2000, C.O.P.S. grants were a significant factor in reducing crimes by about 200,000 to 225,000 crimes—one third of which were violent. In 1998, C.O.P.S. grants were greatly responsible for an 8 percent decrease in crimes—and a 13 percent drop in violent crimes. The C.O.P.S. Improvement Act will breathe new life into the C.O.P.S. program nationwide.

Since 1994, 907 additional police officers and/or sheriff deputies have been hired in the 9th District of Texas, and over \$64 million in C.O.P.S. grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies in the 9th District of Texas. Passage of the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 would likely add an additional \$19 million into Texas' 9th District. This bill will also help to make our schools and children safer by adding 8 more school resource officers to the beat. In the last 13 years over \$9 million in C.O.P.S. grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies to purchase technology that enables agencies to put more officers on the beat in the 9th District.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the 5.7 percent drop in crime in the City of Houston is greatly due to the dedication of our city's hard-working men and women in uniform. Through their increased efforts Houstonians were safer from crime in 2006 than years before. I support the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act, and am proud to increase the number of police officers and make our Nation a safer and better place to live.

IN MEMORIAL OF DONALD N. BUIE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Donald N. Buie of Sanford, North Carolina, who died Monday, May 7, 2007. In his passing I lost a good friend, and North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his church, community, county, and State.

One of the area's most beloved men, my friend Don, passed away peacefully with his family by his side following a brief battle with Creutzfeldt Jakob disease, a rare degenerative neurological disorder. He was only 63, Don loved hunting, raising beagles, barbecuing, and shagging the night away.

Don was a native of Western Harnett County and graduated from Benhaven High School in 1961. In 1965 Don received his undergraduate degree from East Carolina University in Physical Education and completed his master's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1971. Don taught school in both Harnett and Lee County for 6 years. During this time, he coached basketball, baseball, and football. In 1973, he began working at Central Carolina

Community College. During his tenure at CCCC, Don was very active in expanding its curriculum, finding new talent and bringing culture in Lee, Harnett, and Chatham Counties. Don retired from CCCC in 2002 as the Dean of Continuing Education.

Don served Lee County in many capacities, and when he joined an organization he typically became the leader. Don was the chairman of the Lee County Democratic party where he helped lead us to victory in past elections. He was also past president and member of the Sanford Rotary Club, past president and member of the Lee County Wildlife Club, the past president of the Lee County Farm Bureau, and a host of others. Don is survived by his lovely wife of 38 years, Jeanne Johnson Buie, and their three children Melanie Hawes, Dixie Simpson, and David Buie.

Madam Speaker, Donald Buie used every minute of his long and productive life to make the world a better place. He was a respected and successful coach, a dedicated public servant, and a great North Carolinian. It is fitting that we honor him and his family today.

A TRIBUTE TO MARIO M. VITTONI COAST GUARD ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Petty Officer Mario M. Vittone of the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard selected him as the Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year for 2006. Officer Vittone demonstrated outstanding resourcefulness, leadership, and competence while serving at Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina from January 1, 2006 to December 2006.

While performing the demanding duties of a Night Shift Supervisor for the Aviation Survival Technician Shop as the Senior Duty Rescue Swimmer, he applied his experience in rescue swimmer procedures, aviation maintenance techniques, and team management toward creating a standard operating procedures handbook. A brilliant mentor, he also designed a web-based service-wide exam study guide for all members of the unit and conducted daily training sessions to aid them in exam preparation. His unmatched efforts directly improved the readiness posture of the entire station and helped junior Coast Guard personnel score higher on exams.

Petty Officer Vittone used his expertise to author more than eight separate articles in areas ranging from survival to leadership. An accomplished writer, many of his articles have been published and are used as a reference by the Leadership Development Center at the Coast Guard Academy. Most recently, one of his articles was submitted for publication in the Winter 2006 issue of On-Scene Magazine.

With his stellar reputation for instilling commitment to operational excellence, he has delivered inspirational speeches to graduating companies as well as visitors at Training Center Cape May. Repeatedly, his motivating words capture the audience's attention and draw compliments from attendees.

His selfless contributions go beyond the Coast Guard and are evident in the community. As a testament to his unquestionable character, he endured a rigorous screening process to be hand-selected as an advocate for abused and neglected children in the Virginia Court System.

Petty Officer Mario M. Vittone's previous awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Coast Guard Achievement Medal (3), Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Coast Guard Basic Training Honor Graduate, Coast Guard Rifle Expert Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal (2). Through his exceptional achievement and performance, he has proven himself as a worthy and distinguished recipient of this award. His dedication, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and uphold the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

THANKING THE HONORABLE JAMES M. EAGEN III FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement, I rise to thank James Eagen III, for 25 years of distinguished service to the House of Representatives.

Jay began his House career in 1982 as a Legislative Assistant and then Administrative Assistant to Representative Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin. From 1985 to 1991, he served as the Chief of Staff to Representative Bill Goodling of Pennsylvania. Following his Member office service, Jay assumed the role of Staff Director on the Committee on Education and Workforce—currently the Committee on Education and Labor. Jay served the Committee and Chairman Goodling for six years before being nominated and elected to the office of Chief Administrative Officer of the House. He was sworn in to this prestigious position on July 31, 1997.

Jay has served as Chief Administrative Officer in the last six Congresses, and under his leadership, the Office of the CAO dutifully fulfilled its mission to provide first-rate administrative, technical, and support services. During his tenure, the CAO achieved customer satisfaction ratings in the 90th percentile and set new benchmark standards for customer service by Government agencies. Thanks in large part to Jay, the CAO truly is a world-class organization.

Furthermore, the House achieved nine consecutive clean annual financial statement audits, and successfully responded to the anthrax contamination of House office buildings in 2001. Jay led efforts to strengthen the House's business continuity and disaster recovery readiness following the September 11 attacks, and to modernize the committee hearing rooms to upgrade broadcasting capabilities, which enhanced the House's ability to share the legislative process with a greater number of citizens across the country.

Jay Eagen has served the U.S. House of Representatives, and our Nation, with honor and distinction. And on behalf of our entire